CHANGES AS SAFEGUARDS AGAINST FRAUD. Assistant District-Attorney Fiero, submitted yesterday to Judge Benedict, sitting in the criminal branch of the United States Circuit Court, an important presentment by the United States Grand Jury, concerning the illegal naturalization papers of 1868. It calls attention to the abuses which existed when fraudulent papers were issued, and the manner in which the great number of certificates were granted. To prevent a rep-tition of these difficulties six recommendations are made for the consideration of Congress. The presentment, after reviewing the many instances of frauds in naturalization, declares that these were the result of a alization, declares that these were the result of a neglect of duty and a disregard of the requires of law, and coll for the most stringent measures are the cancellation of the dilegal certificates and to not the issue of any duplicates. In the second part presentment, the grand provis, after an examination of the laws in regard to the naturalization of aliens, has these appears to be lossely drawn, incongruous injust, and they offer the following chances and diments: The concument of a provision extending see who have received or may receive honorable args for retriess in the Navy the same privileges of making enjoyed by the holders of honorable Army arges. The passage of an aet legalizing the alignation of white aliens by the suthorized coint the date of the adoption of the Revised Statutes in so the amendment to Section 2169 of the Statutes in 155, between which dates no white alien was out-

### PLANS FOR A NATIONAL MILITIA. CONVENTION TO DISCUSS NECESSARY LEGISLATION.

A general convention of the leading military officers of the different States is to be held in this city in January, to take whatever official action may be necessary to make the militia force of each State an efficient military organization, and to present to Congress the plans proposed in support of a bill to appropriate annually for the purchase of arms, ammuni-

s of those States, as well as this, promising their st cooperation with the movement that has for its "National militia," some of them saying they go much further than the plan suggests, nor Brayman, of Idaho, in approving of plan, says that Idaho, though organized in has no militia laws—cach Legislature reto enset them. The Nez Perce war and sert Banneck war found him without authority; a simply, by courte-y of Congress, "Commundered of the Militia," without a recognized militia. In serregue, we took upon himself the authority to it camp and garrison equipage, and about haif

HAVE ELEVATED ROADS REAL ESTATE? ARGUMENT ON THE QUESTION WHETHER THE NEW YORK ROAD HAS TAXABLE REAL PROPERTY.

The Tax Commissioners have established Company at \$1,204,500 for its real estate, and \$150,000 for its personalty. The original assessment of the prop Dudley Field and David Dudley Field, presented two grounds, one as to the read extate tax, the other as to any taxation. In regard to the real estate tax, they elaimed that the company's eccepation of the ground was a mere license or franchise, and that it was therefore not owner of the land, but held only an untaxatic easement out for public uses. If it was to be taxed as occupier of land, then the assessment was excessive, since all the sur acc space the road occupied amounted to thirty-lour city lots, which would make the assessment 834,500 a lot. The second point was that under the charter the company was bound to pay 5 per cent of its net meome to the city; that this is in neu of all taxation, and that so long as there is no net income, no taxes can be imposed on them for any property used for corporate purposes.

Assistant Corporation Counsel Cole answered that it was well settled that structures on land formed part of the taxable real estate. Aside from the familiar example of houses, it had been expressly decided that a railroad, with its ties and from and its bridges, formed part of the land, and was taxable as such, and that, too, even where the railroad only had the right to run over it. Such foundations as this railroad had, and the erections on them, were subject to the rules relating to land. In regard to the second point, the 5 per cent he claimed was only a license fee, and not a commutation of the tax. Judge Barrett reserved his decision.

tax. Judge Barrett reserved his decision.

TAXES IN QUEENS COUNTY.

The Queens County Board of Supervisors met at Long Island City yesterday, and finished their annual sudit by passing their own personal claims. The total amount of bills against the county is \$26.655 22. total amount of bills against the county is \$26.655 22. The bills as presented amounted to \$27,531 37. The amount and rate of taxation against the several to ons were then fixed. The State requisition of taxes is on the basis of real and personal estate of \$39.387,406. The total smount returned by the local assessors is only \$25.596.466, leaving a dediciency to be made up by equalization of \$13,790.940. This deficiency is nearly the same as last year. The board equalized the basis of taxation as follows: Ovster Bay, \$5.591.595; Hempstead, \$5,500.358; North Hempstead, \$4,142.884; Jamaica, \$5.093,441; Newtown, \$3,670.714; Flushing, \$7.799.976; Long island City, \$7.588.433. The county budget is \$247.831 22.

The appropriations made are over \$14,000 more than has year. The total amount to be raised for all purposes by each town is as follows: Newtown, \$68.538.48; North Hempstead, \$51,378.36; Ovster Bay, \$61.942.31; Jamaica, \$72.497.11; Hempstead, \$62.310.69; Flushing, \$115.952.75; Long Island City, \$73,647.85. The tax of Long Island City does not include the amounts for city and ward expenses. The rate of taxation in the several towns was then fixed as follows: Newtown, \$4.50; Jamaica, \$2.10; Hempstead, \$1.72; North Hempstead, \$1.78; Ovster Bay, \$1.60; Flushing, \$2.46, and Long Island City, \$1.59.

### MARTIN TAYLOR'S CHARGES.

The Brooklyn Police Commissioners have not yet decided to prefer charges against any of the members of the force implicated by the statements of Contractor Martin Taylor, who confessed a fortnight ago that he had stolen ballot-box keys from the Stagg Street that he had stolen ballot-box keys from the Stagg Street Police Station in order to manipulate the ballots in the interest of Abras H. Dailey, the present Surrogate. A TRIBLE reporter was informed yester as by Commissioner Rodiney C. Ward that two or three more policemen would be examined informally before the board same to a conclusion as to the best course to be pursued. Surrogate Dailey said yesterday that it was not true that he had refused to testify before the Police Board. "I received a letter a few days a.c.," he said, "telling me that if I desired to do so I could make a statement before the board. I replied that if the commissioners desired me to testify before them I was willing to do so, but as Taylor's statements were not made in a formal investigation, so that he could be amenable to a charge of periuny, I preferred not to tealify in the case until the proceedings were in legal form. I don't think it would be either dignified or proper for me to seek an opportunity to vindicate myself from such charges as those of Taylor."

NOURISHMENT FOR THE SICK POOR.

Among the charitable organizations of the city, the New-York Diet Kitchen, the object of which is to supply the sick poor with nourishing and well-cooked to supply the sick poor with nourishing and well-cooked food, would seem to have peculiar claims for recognition. During the past year the association has lost its portion of the Excase find, which yie ded it \$3,600 in 1877, and is, in consequence, somewhat pressed for funds. Any gifts of money or goods, from those able to help the society, will be glasily received by Mrs. John W. Barrow, of No. 313 East Seventeenth-st. chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. So great is the domand on the association that it has been determined to hold a "fair and children's merry-making" at Lyric Hall, Sixth-ave., between Fortieth and Forty-second-sta., December 20 and 21, the proceeds of which will be for the aid-of the society.

MRS. JENNIE R. SMITH'S ALLEGED CONFIDANT. Mrs. Mary A. Philtips, of Jersey City, was scrested yesterday afternoon as a witness in the Smith sourder case, which is set down for trial on Wednesday

Two months ago Mrs. Phillips surrendered he self to the police, saying that she had polsoned her self to the police, saying that she had noisoned her baby with landanum. The Grand Jury refused to indict her. Walle under arrest she occupied a cell with Mrs. Jennic R. Smith, the alleged murderess, for several weeks. It was rumored in Jersey City last evening that Mrs. Phillips had received a full and complete confes-sion from Mrs. Smith of the details of the mysterious murder, but the truth of the report could not be ascer-tained. District-Atturney McGill refused to talk about the nature of the testimony which will be given by Mrs. Phillips.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN. DISCUSSING UNDERGROUND TELEGRAPH WIRES, STEAM-PIPES, AND ELEVATED AND SURFACE

RAILROADS. In the meeting of the Board of Aldermen yesterday, President Roberts proposed an ordinance authorizing the laying of subterranean telegraph wires under the supervision of the Commissioner of Public Works, provided every telegraph company gives the use of one of its subterranean wires in every street to the Police and Fire Departments. Appended to the ordi-Prolice and Fire Departments. Appended to the ordinance was a resolution granting permission to the following persons to take advantage of its authorization: Albert W. Harris, M. Baiph Tynen, W. K. Helss, Cornelins V. Sidell, Prilip J. Klernan, W. Chifford Harris and W. H. Heiss, jr. These men intend to call their association the "Underground Pipe Company." Alberman Perley wanted delay. Alderman Sheits aid not. Alderman Morris said there could be no harm in letting a company try the experiment. The ordinance was passed by a anannous vote, sixteen Alderman being present.

Presideal Roberts presented a resolution, which was

### BAD FAITH IN FREIGHT RATES. ADMISSIONS THAT THE RAILROADS ARE DOING

BUSINESS AT LESS THAN SCHEDULE FIGURES. Merchants on the Produce Exchange talked freely about the cutting of freight rates as published it outlined. Said one large shipper of provisions; "The railroads are taking business at large reductions from the schedule rates, not withstanding the five-years agree ment made at the meeting of the rallroad managers a few days ago in this city." It was generally concelled that there was cutting on torough freights from Chicago to Laverpool, not only by way of Boston, but also by the way of New-York; that some of the roads had engaged January freight from Chicago to New-York at more than 50 per cent below the schedule rates; and that 1,500 car-loads were thus

EXCISE COMMISSIONERS ON TRIAL. CHARGED WITH ISSUING ILLEGAL LICENSES-THE DAIRY FAIR NOT AN INN.

The examination of the charge of the Soety for the Prevention of Crime against the Excise Commissioners, alleging that they had illegally issued licenses to Byrne & White, No. 19 West Houston-st., and Mrs. E. Seaman at the Dairy Fair, was resumed yesterday before Justice Kilbreth, at the Tombs. Mr. Bancker, one of the counsel for the society, accused the commis-sioners of endeavoring to obstruct the inquiry by not producing certain books mentioned in the affiliavits as necessary to the progress of the examination. Commis-sioner Morrison denied this, Justice Kibreth-said that be did not think that the e-muni-sioners were disposed to withhold anything, and that if the affidavits were indefinite as to the particular books desired, the commissioners were not to be held responsible. Andrew B. Hart, clerk of the Excise Board, said that upon ex-amination be was unable to find a record of the heepse of Uriah Weish, of the St. Nicao'as

Hotel, and of Henry Miner, or showing the delays inmissioner Morris on explained by showing the delays inseparable from the granting of heenses and the impossibility of understanding the books by a brief glaine; he
said the commissioners were prepared, after a proper
notice, to furnish a list of all the heenses issued by them
since the date of their appointment.

William W. Waite, special agent of the society, described an interview between himself and the commissioners, in which a protest was flied against the issue of
a license to Byrne & White, on account of the character
of the house kept by them. Mr. Bancker stated that he
had three maletiments and a conviction against Byrne,
but in the face of these a license was granted. Capitain
Byrnes, of the Eighth Frechet, said that he had ar ested
Byrne on previous occasios, and that the character of
the house was bad. He had officially informed the commissioners that the house was a resort for theyes and
hurglars. Officer James F. Sheridan testified that he
had not only seen disreputable women visit the premises, but had seen as many as twenty thieves and wellburgiars. Officer James F. Sheroun teamer that not only seen disreputable women visit the premises, but had seen as many as twenty thieves and well-known burgians there at one tim. Officer John Mur. by testified to the same facts. Mr. Whiney, the counsel for the society, remarked that in Mrs. Scaman's case there were not the necessary teatures of an inn, tavern or hotel about her place. The examination was postponed until to-morrow at 10 s. in.

THE INSANE AND POOR OF NEW-YORK. AN APPEAL FOR THEIR PROPER CARE-LARGER PUBLIC ASYLUMS NEEDED.

The members of the Board of Apportionment usually do their work in a perfunctory manner, but upon assembling in the Mayor's office Monday after-noon there was a perceptible interest manifested in upon assembling in the Mayor's office Monday afternoon there was a perceptible interest manifested in hearing Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell read an appeal for a larger appropriation for the care of the insane and a suggestion concerning the distribution of money for the support of the poor during this Winter. Mrs. Lowell said: "Two months ago there was an excess of more than 1,000 insane patients under the care of the city for whem there was no adequate provision at all. Since that time the number has becrease by 200; 460 will probably be provided for by January 1, but the remainder will be crowded together. Most deplorable consequences result. Simply as a measure of economy this city must sooner or later try to cure all of its insane who are curable, and not manufacture chronic lunaties out of the acute cases sont to the asylums for treatment." Mrs. Lowell suggested appropriations of \$20,000 to finish the west wing of the Jusane Asylum on Ward's Island; \$25,000 to robuil dithe Losize on blackwell's Island; \$25,000 to robuil dithe Losize on blackwell's Island; \$25,000 to robuil dithe Losize on blackwell's Island; \$60,000, to be divided between the society for Improving the Condition of the Poor and the society for Improving the Condition of the Poor and the society for Improving the Condition of the Poor and the society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Municipal Referent Association sent a letter suggesting that the Department of Docks be required to submit a detailed statement of the Amounts required for the maintenance of final Department in 1579. In the communication the opinions of several weil-known lawyers were quoted to the effect that the Department of Docks was not undependent of the Board of Apportionment in this respect. Corporation Counsel Whitney was asked to give his opinion of the extent of the Board's autherity over the Department.

HOME-AND-HOME RACKET MATCH. In the court of the New-York Racket Club. at Twenty-sixth-st, and Sixth-ave., Monday afternoon, the first of two home-and-home matches between the champions of the clubs of Quebec and this city was

champions of the clubs of Quebec and this city was played. Quebec was represented by Henry Boakes, and New-Yerk by John Mahou. Only members of the club were allowed to be present. The game was called shortly atter I o'clock. Beakes won the tess. The match was played for the best four games in seven, each game counting fifteen aces; if a tie occurred at thirteen, "live" could be added to the fifteen.

The score was as follows: First game, Boakes 15, Mahon 4; second, Boakes 16, Mahon 18. This was "set up" five, as there was a tie at thirteen. Third game, Boakes 15, Mahon 11. As the Canadian champion had won four games, time was called, leaving him the winner by 24 aces. In the fourth game Mahon was unfortunate enough to breas his bat, thus scrionsly interfering with his score. The time of the match was one hour. The next match will come off in Quebec, January 6, 1879.

FOR HAVRE AND LONDON.

The following cabin passengers will sail for Europe to-day on the French Line steamship Canada and the Denmark, of the National Line:

And the Denmark, of the National Line:

FOR HAVEE-By Steamship Conside. Dr. E. Shippen,
Mrs. Shippen, child and nurse. Mrs. Mary A. Mitcheil, Mrs.
C.A. Lator, Charies Rippert, E. De Schryver, A. De Goicocchea, Mrs. De Goicocchea, Max E. Schuidt, John Dixon, Juan
de Sequeira G. De Cristoforio, V. Perrin, Miss L. L. Huillier,
Jules vuionne, John Sudan, John H. McGrace, H. S. Haskell,
Mrs. Jolly and child.
FOR LONDON-By Steamship Denmark.—S. Sherwell,
John Avery, Mrs. Avery, William Avery, Thomas Avery,
Miss Marie Rener. William Paul R. E. Green, John S. Herresholl, N. G. Herresholl, Charles Morey.

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21 pcs. Turkish Noveities (in rich coloring), \$1 per yard;

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